

June 28, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

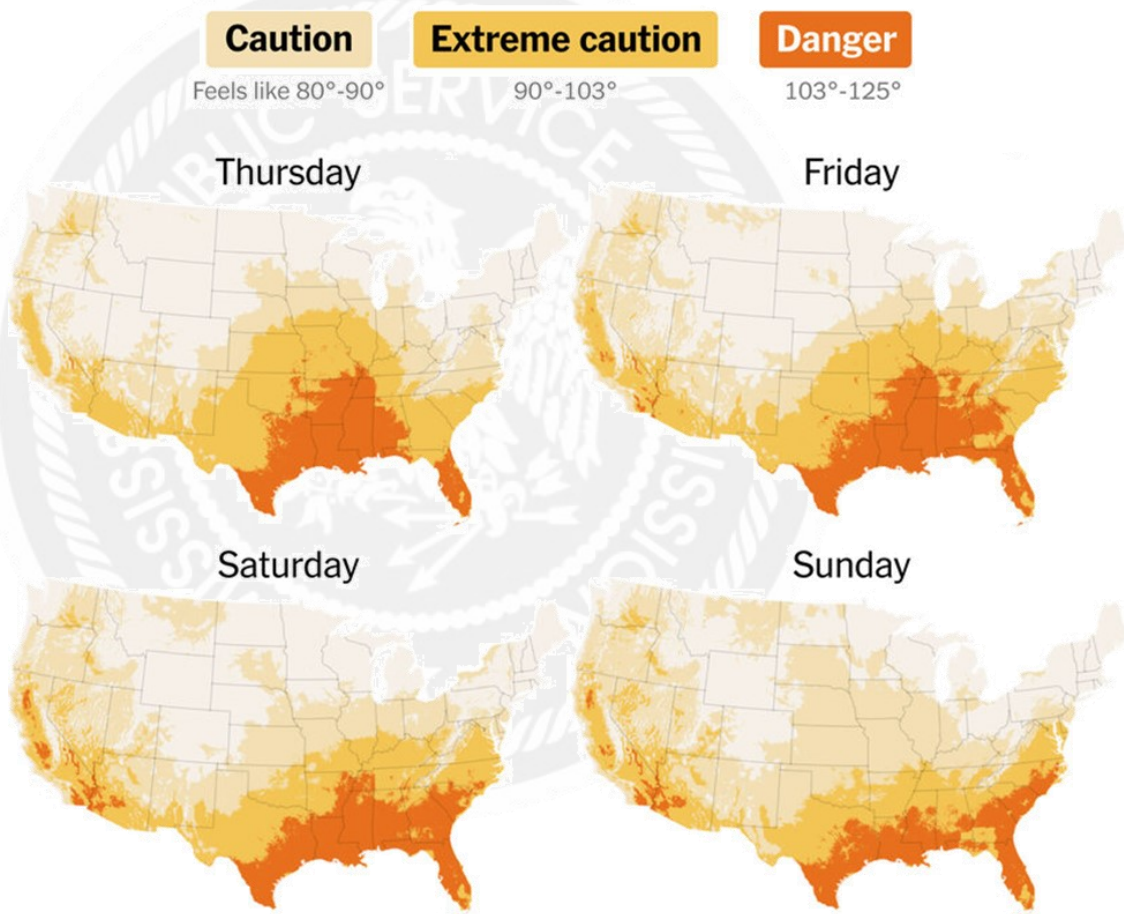
Brent Bailey

The Heat is On!

Over the next few days, dangerous levels of heat are forecast across the Southeast U.S. Over 50 million people live in the areas expected to experience the worst of the effects of this heat wave. Because of where we live, the heat is compounded by the levels of humidity in the air. The heat index is a measure of how hot it really feels outside, taking into account humidity along with temperature. The measurement is used to indicate when the level of heat is dangerous for the human body while in the shade. When out in the sun, a person could perceive that temperature as being higher by up to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. The maps forecast the heat index for the next four days.

Hundreds of people die from extreme heat in the United States every year. And this week's heat could just be the beginning of a long hot summer. Meteorologists predicted a hotter-than-normal summer this year, particularly in the West, Southwest, South, and Northeast. El Niño, a Pacific weather pattern, could send global temperatures even higher.

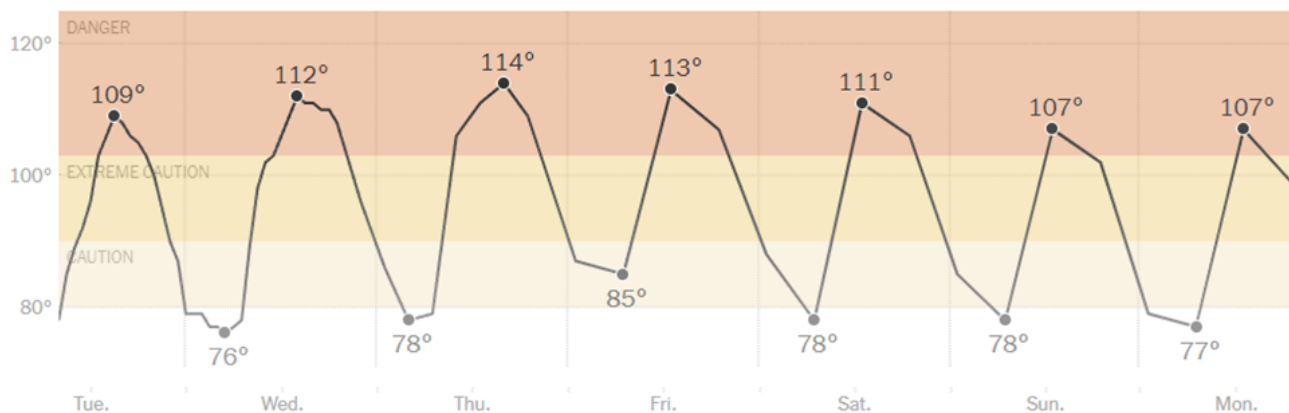
Maps show the highest level forecast each day.





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Summer temperatures have become hotter in recent decades, and the health effects of extreme heat can be severe. On hot days, the National Weather Service and Centers for Disease Control [recommends](#) that people drink plenty of fluids (but avoid alcohol and caffeine), eat light meals, stay in cooler rooms, keep out of the sun, use high-quality sunscreen if in the sun, wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing, take breaks often, and check up on relatives and neighbors, especially older adults and those who live alone. Following this advice is especially critical over the few days in Jackson, MS, and surrounding areas where the heat index is forecast to reach 114 degrees Fahrenheit on Thursday.



The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), the Reliability Coordinator for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), has declared a Maximum Generation Capacity Advisory for the entire MISO Footprint (including the South Region) effective from June 29 until further notice. Under the declaration, generation and transmission owners must be prepared to implement MISO Market Capacity Emergency procedures, ensure all market data is updated, and implement load modifying resources if notified by MISO. I have reached out to our regulated utilities and each have verified that all generation assets are either currently running or are waiting in reserve and ready to be called upon should demand for electricity sharply increase.



Will the Storms Ever Stop?

As mentioned earlier, summer temperatures have steadily increased over the past three decades. A warming climate could push those temperatures higher, resulting in more and worse heat waves and other extreme weather, such as dangerous thunderstorms.

Last week, I wrote about the storms that began rolling through the state on Saturday June 10, and continued almost daily through Sunday June 18. The worst of the storms occurred in the early morning hours of June 16. The last of the impacted customers from that storm event had their power restored on Friday, June 23. Entergy Mississippi's damage assessment numbers from the June 16 storm event alone included 426 broken poles, 1,655 (approx. 455,000') spans of downed wire, 140 damaged transformers, and 200 broken cross arms. From June 10 to June 18, Entergy Mississippi's total damage assessments identified 609 damaged poles, 2,333 (approx. 121.5 miles) spans of wire down, 201 transformers, and 251 cross arms that have been repaired or replaced.

Over a nearly 2-weeks span, up to 2,300 lineman crews, vegetation crews, damage scouts and support personnel worked up to 16-hour days to repair, replace and rebuild damaged power delivery infrastructure and restore power to over 240,000 Entergy Mississippi customers.



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Of course, there were significant outages experienced in many other parts of the state and the linemen and crews of various rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities worked tirelessly to restore power to their customers as quickly and safely as possible.

Just when we thought we were in the clear, another round of severe thunderstorms moved through the state during the late night of June 25 and early morning hours June 26, bringing with it strong winds and lightning and causing more outages across the state. Entergy Mississippi experienced a peak outage of 25,978 and identified another 93 damaged poles, 96,525 feet of wire down, 43 transformers damaged, and 28 broken cross arms.

Additional crews have been arriving over the past two days to assist local Entergy personnel with the restoration effort. There are now over 1,300 workers engaged, which includes line crews, vegetation crews, damage assessment scouts and support personnel. Entergy estimates that all customers impacted by the June 25-26 storm should have power restored by Wednesday night.

On Tuesday morning, only about 1,000 Entergy customers remained without power. But guess what! Another strong storm rolled through the state on Tuesday evening (June 27) and as of the writing of this newsletter article, the outages were back up to over 7,000 Entergy customers.

No Call Program Moves to AG's Office Starting July 1

As we near the end of the fiscal year, the "No Call Program," which has been housed under the Mississippi Public Service Commission since 2003, will be transferring to the Mississippi Attorney General's Office starting July 1, 2023.

This transfer follows the passage of House Bill 1225 during the 2023 Mississippi Regular Legislative Session. The bill transfers the administrative, investigative and enforcement responsibilities of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act to the staff of the Mississippi Attorney General's Office who are effectively equipped to carry out the legal actions needed to go after illegal telemarketers, scam calls and robocalls.

Effective July 1, 2023, you must visit <https://nocallportal.ago.ms.gov/> to file a No Call Complaint. To register with the no call list, visit www.donotcall.gov. For further questions or concerns regarding telemarketing and robocalls, call the Attorney General's Office at (800) 281-4418. The MS No Call app will be available in August. Search for 'MS No Call App' in your carriers' app store.

The Central District has received 3,009 complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers since the start of the year through our no call app, website and mail-ins. In 2022, the Central District received a total of 9,526 No Call complaints.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission and the staff of the "No Call Program" have been honored to assist telephone customers in the reduction of unwanted telephone solicitations and scam calls and in the pursuit of those entities making unwanted telemarketing or fraudulent scam calls or text messages. I encourage you to continue to be vigilant and protect yourself against scam calls. Make sure your phone numbers are on the national Do Not Call list. Do not answer a suspected scam call. Utilize a call blocking app to reduce the number of unwanted calls. And never, never, never give out your personal information over the phone.









Broadband News: Over \$1.2 Billion Coming to Mississippi

On June 26, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced it was allocating funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories to support the deployment of affordable, reliable high-speed internet service. The funding is being administered under the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



Mississippi will receive \$1,203,561,563 to expand high-speed internet. The Mississippi office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (**BEAM**) will disperse the funds through a competitive grant program. BEAM has up to 180 days to submit its proposal describing how it plans to run its grant program. Once the plan is approved, BEAM can begin to draw down at least 20 percent of the funds each year over the next 5 years. According to BEAM, Mississippi has an estimated 300,000 unserved and 200,000 underserved homes and businesses.

Last Week at the MPSC

-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed a [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity seeking authorization from to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate and maintain a new 115/13.8 kilovolts substation (the "Proposed Grenada Industrial Substation"), 13.8 kV distribution lines and other related facilities, and the connecting 115 kV transmission line segments, rights-of-way, and the related substation terminal facilities and other related equipment and facilities all within **Grenada County**. **Entergy Mississippi** anticipates an increasing need for electrical supply in the area, including a new 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility being constructed by Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation and creating over 1,200 new jobs in the region. The proposed substation and related facilities are expected to provide greater operational flexibility and enhanced reliability for the distribution facilities in the Grenada area and reduce the likelihood of customer interruptions during unplanned outage events.
-  **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Change Rates to Correct State-Wide Tariff. Specifically, Rate Schedule LOS-1 designates Cypress Creek in **DeSoto County** and Grand Oaks in **OkTibbeha County** as Tier 2 systems instead of Tier 1. This filing seeks to revise Rate Schedule LOS-1 to correct this error. **Great River** also proposes to submit a letter to the **Commission** in this docket confirming that bill credits have been applied in full for all effected customers.
-  **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) granting **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Request for Extension of time in regard to Entergy Mississippi, LLC's Notice of IRP Cycle Pursuant to Commission Rule 29. For its 2024 IRP, **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** is ordered to hold a public workshop no later than August 15, 2023; to hold a technical conference no later than July 1, 2024; and to file its 2024 IRP no later than August 15, 2024.
-  **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Approving the Compliance Filing and Tariffs by **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** for their Power Management Cost Adjustment Factor, Grid Modernization Cost Adjustment Factor, and Energy Cost Factor to the **Commission** in regards to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** 2023 Formula Rate Plan Filing.



Rest in peace, Sam. Your legacy will live on!

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of Sam Johnson, the first employee and longtime Executive Director/President of Mississippi 811, Inc. Sam was a true leader in the field of underground utility protection. He was a tireless advocate for safe digging practices and a champion of safety, always putting the well-being of others first. Sam will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His impact on the industry and the countless lives he touched will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones, and to our friends at Mississippi 811 during this time.



CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Last week, I joined the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Nuclear Energy Partnership to moderate a webinar that provided a briefing on the Department of Energy's (DOE) recent publication-- Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Advanced Nuclear.



I was back on the Mississippi Gulf Coast (along with Tina and Sarah) during the beginning of the week for the 92nd Annual Conference of the Mississippi Municipal League. We saw a lot of our Central District mayors, aldermen, alderwomen, and other city officials.

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The Exhibit Hall was packed, and I enjoyed visiting with the many entities, agencies and organizations, as we all want to provide ideas and strategies to municipalities to serve their residents and to help improve their communities.



Today, I am attending the enHance Environmental Stewardship Workshop and Awards Luncheon at the Sheraton in Flowood. This annual event is co-sponsored by MDEQ and the Mississippi Manufacturers Association. The workshop is conducted each year to provide information concerning the principles of environmental stewardship, waste reduction practices, pollution prevention case studies, regulatory updates and recognition for the work of the State's companies and organizations that are members in enHance.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **134** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	130
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **120** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins.

We encourage consumers to file telemarketing complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> in addition to filing complaints with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.